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INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ECONOMIC REHABILITATION OF ANGOLA

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 47/164 of 18 December 1992 on international assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola, the General Assembly, inter alia:

(a) Called upon all parties to do their utmost to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Peace Accords for Angola (see S/22609) and national reconciliation goals, thus creating conditions conducive to the economic rehabilitation of the country;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to the international community for the emergency humanitarian assistance rendered to Angola through the Special Relief Programme for Angola, and appealed for continued and generous contributions for emergency humanitarian assistance;

(c) Reiterated its appeal to the international community to continue to render the material, technical and financial assistance necessary for the economic rehabilitation of Angola;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the international community, to continue to mobilize organizations and organs of the United Nations system in order to ensure an appropriate level of economic assistance for Angola;

(e) Also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution.

II. BACKGROUND

2. Cautious optimism reigned throughout Angola following the signing of the Bicesse Peace Accords in May 1991. The prospect of favourable conditions for economic and social rehabilitation of the country nourished the hope that finally Angola would begin to exploit fully its rich natural and human resources.

3. Regrettably, this hope was extinguished with the advent of an undeclared state of war and a grave humanitarian crisis following the presidential and parliamentary elections of 29-30 September 1992. The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) contested the results of the internationally monitored electoral process, which the United Nations declared generally free and fair, and withdrew unilaterally from the Forcas Armadas Angolanas (FAA). Fighting erupted in a number of cities in October-November 1992 and soon spread throughout the country. Major hostilities continued through September 1993, posing special challenges to all relief agencies.

4. The resurgence of civil war has devastated Angola's rural and urban populations; caused thousands of deaths and injuries and deep psychological trauma; plunged some 3 million Angolans into destitution and displacement; and brought about the virtual collapse of the social and economic system.

5. A Programme for Economic Stability was approved by the Government for 1993. The Programme was intended to provide emergency relief to the vulnerable population, accelerate resettlement and rehabilitation activities and stimulate the economy. Despite this initiative, the economy, in decline since 1992, is now on the brink of complete paralysis. Even the oil industry, the main source of national income, has been the object of attacks, adversely affecting its output. Other socio-economic sectors have been wrecked by the war through extensive damage to physical infrastructure and the disruption of social and communications services.

6. The Government has adopted measures leading to structural changes in economic activity, including the devaluation of the national currency. Among the objectives of the structural adjustment measures are remonetization of the economy and the creation of a modern and effective monetary system. Some elements of the adjustment programme are considered to have added to the adverse impact of the war on the urban and rural populations.

7. Efforts at reaching a negotiated peace settlement started with a round of talks conducted under the auspices of the United Nations in the southern Angolan town of Namibe in November 1992. The talks were continued in Addis Ababa from 27 to 30 January 1993. An attempt to reconvene at Addis Ababa on 26 February 1993 failed when UNITA, citing concerns over security, did not send representatives to the proposed meeting. Further negotiations took place at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in April and May 1993 under United Nations auspices. Although significant progress was made, it did not prove possible to reach overall agreement, despite serious and protracted negotiations between the two parties. In the mean time, UNITA continued its military advances and attacks on several major cities. Continued efforts by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to establish an effective ceasefire in order to permit the adequate and timely provision of vital humanitarian assistance have proved unsuccessful to date.

8. The resumption of the war occurred at the height of the planting season, thus adversely affecting the population's ability to feed itself through household-level agricultural production. In rural areas, people were displaced to towns, large and small, or were prevented from pursuing normal smallfarming activities because of mined fields and general insecurity. Resettlement and rehabilitation programmes in sectors such as health, water supply and basic education were severely disrupted.

9. The agricultural campaign produced about 320,000 tons of grain, representing less than 42 per cent of the national needs. The World Food Programme (WFP) has estimated that 350,141 tons of emergency food aid will be needed for the period 1 May 1993 to 30 April 1994. To this food deficit is added the enormous difficulty of reaching the affected populations in many parts of the country because of security and logistic problems. Over the past year, many population centres have remained inaccessible to relief organizations for months at a time because of heavy fighting or difficulty in obtaining security guarantees from the parties to the conflict.

III. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

10. In view of the wide-scale civil conflict, the Government, non-governmental organizations and United Nations organizations have transformed their reconstruction and development plans into emergency humanitarian assistance programmes. The focus of the United Nations effort is to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of destitute people, especially in newly accessible areas, and to maintain a preventive approach in fields such as health and nutrition. In February 1993, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) applied its adaptive programming approach for a country in difficult circumstances to Angola, and subsequently launched a 90-day Plan of Action for the period 1 June to 31 August as a concrete expression of this approach. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has modified its programme to concentrate assistance on the 112,000 repatriates now seriously affected by the war. It also extends support to the non-returnee population of the provinces of Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Moxico, Uige and Zaire, bordering Zaire and Zambia. The various non-governmental organizations active in emergency relief activities have, likewise, oriented their programming and strategies to the current, very volatile, situation.

11. On 21 May 1993, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat issued a consolidated inter-agency appeal for $226 million in humanitarian assistance for Angola. The priority activities in the appeal include food assistance, at an estimated cost of $131 million, as well as the provision of seeds and tools to destitute farmers and development of rural infrastructure. In the health sector, proposed interventions focus on safe water supply, sanitation and mass vaccination and immunization. Relief and survival kits are to be supplied to needy persons, and an ongoing programme of protection, relief and rehabilitation for refugees and repatriates continues.

12. The appeal targeted approximately 2 million Angolans in need, including 1.6 million affected by the civil conflict and attendant economic dislocations, 256,000 afflicted by drought and 112,000 repatriates. In view of the intensification of conflict and further economic decline, the number in need of relief assistance is now estimated at 3 million. Isolated nutritional surveys in accessible urban areas, showing a marked deterioration of the nutritional status among the adult population, tend to support this revised estimate.

13. The response to the consolidated appeal has been limited. United Nations agencies have reported contributions directly responding to the appeal in the amount of $60.2 million, including $48.2 million in food aid. Key sectors such as logistics, seeds and tools, relief and survival items and education have not received significant contributions, despite their importance as a vehicle for economic rehabilitation.

14. Within the framework of the consolidated appeal, the United Nations system has made intensive efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to all Angolans in need. In the coastal provinces and other areas considered secure, the relief programme carried out in cooperation with national and international non-governmental organizations has brought food aid and other emergency assistance to large numbers of Angolans displaced by the war or affected by the country-wide economic decline. However, the implementation of relief operations in the interior of the country and in zones of active conflict, where the needs

are particularly acute, has encountered serious difficulties. Among the difficulties have been a series of security incidents, including fire directed at a WFP aircraft on the tarmac in Luena on 14 April; a missile striking down a relief flight leaving Luena on 26 April, resulting in two deaths; shooting at a plane bound for M'Banza Congo on 15 July; and an attack on a WFP convoy near Catengue on 26 August which left four people dead.

15. Despite these incidents, the United Nations continues to seek access to all populations in need. Following a series of discussions conducted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with the Government and UNITA in July and August 1993, all parties have agreed to a revised emergency relief plan which targets 13 priority cities in areas considered insecure. By the end of September, at least seven of these locations had been reached by relief flights and security clearances were being sought for the others.

16. At the time of the appeal, the United Nations asked the international community for 70 per cent of the food and other relief items desperately needed by 2 million Angolans, because it was estimated that 30 per cent of the required supplies could not be delivered. This prospect could change dramatically if a comprehensive peace is restored in Angola. Emergency airlift operations could be extended to many places where it is now unsafe or impossible to fly. WFP has developed a contingency plan which incorporates the possibility of increasing the number of planes from the current two (one Antonov and one small plane) to eight within a period of four weeks.

IV. SECTORAL INTERVENTIONS

Food aid

17. Food aid consists of cereals (rice and maize), pulses and vegetable oil and is distributed to beneficiary populations directly by WFP or through non-governmental organizations. Supplementary feeding activities of local health institutions are strengthened through the provision of corn-soya blend, sugar, milk, high protein biscuits and salt.

18. In recent months, efforts have focused on overland distribution in the areas deemed safe near Luanda, Sumbe, Lobito/Benguela and Namibe/Lubango. However, Saurimo, Luena, Dundo, Cabinda, Cazombo, Malanje and Menongue have also been reached by flights carried out in cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

19. During the period January-July 1993, WFP delivered 22,678 tons of food and airlifted 359 tons of non-food items despite the intensified war situation countrywide. In August 1993, WFP signed an agreement with the Government of Angola to provide 94,000 tons of foodstuffs over a six-month period at a cost of $57.6 million, including $37.6 million for internal transport.

Shelter, relief and survival items

20. In response to massive population displacements, reduced access to basic social services and the cold climate prevailing in the central plateau from May to September, the United Nations aims to provide needy families with blankets, used clothing, tents, cooking and feeding sets, wash-basins, buckets, jerry cans, plastic sheeting, soap, seeds and tools.

21. At least 900,000 destitute persons require such survival kits. Both UNICEF and UNHCR, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, are involved in their distribution to the areas currently accessible. In order to extend such assistance to the 13 priority cities (see para. 18 above), more financial resources will be required for procurement and distribution.

Food security, agricultural production and livestock

22. Because many rural families have been forced to seek refuge in other regions, support to subsistence farming has taken on new urgency. Basic food security kits composed of different types of tools and seeds adapted for subsistence production are to be prepackaged and distributed to eligible families. Other areas of the country suitable for small livestock breeding are to receive appropriate support to reach subsistence levels. However, the implementation of these plans is being hampered primarily by the insufficiency of seeds, fertilizers and tools, as well as the inaccessibility of some areas. More financial support to the logistics sector is also required.

23. Despite the above problems and because the 1993/94 agricultural campaign is so crucial to avoid further deterioration of the nutritional status of the population, UNICEF, the Angolan Institute for Agrarian Development and a number of non-governmental organizations are collaborating to distribute seeds and tools in six provinces. The number of provinces may be increased if new areas become accessible. WFP will provide the essential logistical component. The programme will provide 209,260 agricultural utensils and 919 tons of seeds to some 70,000 families.

24. The above programme encompasses only 25 per cent of the target population of the United Nations appeal. Complementary projects prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on seed, fertilizer and tool distribution have not yet been funded. These require urgent and substantial support if the physical and agricultural rehabilitation of communities is to be assured. Support is also required to revitalize the cattle and small livestock farms in the drought-affected southern part of Angola.

Health and nutrition

25. Through the distribution of emergency drugs, medical supplies and materials, the United Nations system is reactivating local health and nutrition services. An emergency vaccination campaign has been launched to protect children against measles. Vitamin A and (for certain destinations) iodine supplies are also part of the plan. Women of child-bearing age are being vaccinated against tetanus. Essential drugs for the treatment of common diseases such as diarrhoea, malaria, respiratory infections, scabies and ailments caused by malnutrition are provided through existing health centres.

The restoration of local health infrastructures, including the provision of food and cooking utensils for hospital in-patient feeding, is also in progress. Other activities include the rehabilitation of health centres and health posts, establishment of epidemiological surveillance mechanisms and production of health manuals, leaflets and documentation packages.

26. Since 1 June 1993, UNICEF reports that 110,444 children have been immunized against measles and 172,496 women of child-bearing age vaccinated with tetanus toxoid. Vitamin A capsules were distributed to 110,000 children during the same period. With the participation of specialized non-governmental organizations, 47,625 people received oral rehydration salts.

27. Where security allows, UNICEF and some non-governmental organizations support government staff with nutritional surveys. The surveys show a rapid deterioration in the health status of children and adults living in cities. To address the growing incidence of malnutrition, the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and participating non-governmental organizations are involved in supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes. UNICEF's supplementary feeding programme requires 8,500 tons of dried skimmed milk, 1,266 tons of sugar and 1,812 tons of vegetable oil, corn-soya blend and high-protein biscuits. Efforts to expand supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres in accessible areas of the country continue. So far, 17 units have been supported by UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO).

28. The United Nations has also organized eight seminars and trained staff members of the Public Health Department, the Ministry of Social Affairs and non-governmental organizations.

29. The provinces of Bengo, Benguela, Cunene, Cuanza Sul, Luanda, Huila and Namibe have benefited from assistance in this sector. Sporadic assistance was also provided through non-governmental organizations operating in Cuanza Norte, Malanje and Lunda Sul. More financial resources will be required to achieve the objectives of the activities in this sector.

Water and sanitation

30. Some areas with a demonstrated need to curtail the incidence and prevalence of water-borne diseases and to improve sanitation have received large-capacity water bladders and water chlorination tablets. The dispatch of water trucks is undertaken when and where feasible. Existing small-scale water supply systems and sanitation facilities are similarly targeted for rehabilitation.

31. For prevailing security reasons, the 1993-1994 water and sanitation programme is limited to Bengo, Benguela, Cuanza Sul, Huila and Namibe provinces. UNICEF operates water projects in Benguela and Huila and supports the government authorities in the implementation of water and sanitation programmes responsive to the needs of the affected population in other accessible provinces. Since June 1993, 10 boreholes, 59 shallow wells and 2 small-scale piped-water systems were constructed and 36 water systems were rehabilitated under the UNICEF 90-day plan of action. Twelve seminars trained 121 water personnel. Because of the time required to complete water sources such as boreholes, wells and spring water captation, expansion of such programmes can only come with improved security conditions.

Education

32. An estimated 840,000 children have been deprived of virtually all educational opportunities because of the lack of adequate facilities, teachers and textbooks. Among the target group, many children living under military occupation and witnessing human suffering, including the killing of their relatives, will be provided with special education programmes to help them overcome their traumas. To assist the local authorities in addressing this need, UNICEF and some non-governmental organizations have started to supply kits of teaching and learning materials. Under the UNICEF 90-day action plan, 10 kits were distributed benefiting 4,300 children. Response to this segment of the appeal has been poor, even though the importance of the activity for rehabilitation is acknowledged.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

33. There is a newly established Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit (HACU) in Angola, headed by a director who works under the supervision of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. HACU coordinates the activities and contributions of the international community, various national and international non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies in Angola in response to the current humanitarian challenge.

34. The work of HACU is guided by the following premises and objectives:

(a) The need for a dynamic coordinating mechanism which can effectively blend the efforts of Government, United Nations and non-governmental organization agencies through monitoring, liaison, a common communications system and a security network;

(b) Development of a policy framework within which the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and other agencies can integrate current emergency activities with rehabilitation and future development;

(c) Flexibility to adjust programmes to the rapidly changing conditions of accessibility and security, including the redeployment of resources to areas of priority need;

(d) Capitalizing on the complementarity between the logistic and technical capabilities of the United Nations and the expertise of the field-based personnel of national and international non-governmental organizations.

35. Staff members of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), including military and police observers, also assist in coordinating security clearance for transportation of humanitarian assistance and in escorting, where necessary, relief convoys and flights.

VI. ASSISTANCE BY MEMBER STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Member States

Austria

36. Austria has made a contribution of 500,000 Austrian schillings (approximately US$ 40,000) to UNHCR for refugee repatriation in Angola in 1992. Three technical assistance projects amounted to S3 million (approximately US$ 250,000).

Denmark

37. In 1992, Danish emergency assistance to Angola amounted to 3 million Danish kroner, channelled through UNHCR and WFP. In 1993, Danish emergency assistance amounts to DKr 6 million, channelled through Danish non-governmental organizations.

Germany

38. In 1992, Germany contributed humanitarian assistance to Angola in the amount of 789,000 deutsche mark. Some DM 309,000 was spent for medical aid and appliances, DM 200,000 for children's nourishment and DM 280,000 for the financing of transport vehicles. In the current budget year, no such financial commitment has yet been made for humanitarian assistance to Angola.

39. Present circumstances preclude any development cooperation between Germany and Angola. It was indicated to the Government of Angola, however, that Germany was willing to participate in the country's reconstruction once peace had been restored. This was subject to the signing of the General Agreement on Technical Cooperation, the draft of which had been forwarded to the Government of Angola in February 1992.

40. In 1992, an amount of DM 4 million in relief aid was committed under technical cooperation for auxiliary metal bridges and DM 1.3 million for measures to reintegrate demobilized soldiers. A technical cooperation study fund of DM 2 million has been in existence since 1989. A similar financial cooperation study fund was set up in 1992 involving DM 3 million. Within the scope of technical cooperation in the wider sense, about DM 30 million for financial cooperation and DM 10 million for technical cooperation were earmarked internally. However, the establishment of regular development cooperation relations depends on the improvement of the political situation.

India

41. The Government of India has decided to provide humanitarian assistance to Angola in the amount of 2 million rupees out of the balance available in the Africa Fund.

Italy

42. Angola has been a priority country for Italian development cooperation since November 1989. Given the importance of consolidating the political stability of Angola after the Bicesse Accords, within a more general effort aimed at promoting peace in southern Africa, Italy concentrated its efforts in 1992 on sustaining the political transition process and the country's most immediate post-war reconstruction needs by participating in multilateral initiatives (with a financial participation of 8 million European currency units in the European Community platform for Angola), and by financing specific bilateral cooperation projects. The total financial commitment of Italy for sustaining the peace process in Angola was approximately 75 billion lire. Indirectly related to this commitment were some bilateral projects of great social impact (in the sectors of health, water supply and small productive activities) for an additional amount of 64 billion lire.

43. The bilateral cooperation programme is based on the results of the 1990 and 1991 Italian-Angolan Joint Commission meetings, which identified two geographic concentration areas (the coastal belt between Luanda and Benguela, and the southern provinces of Huambo, Huila, Namibe and Cunene) and short- and mid-term cooperation objectives. The total indicative figure for Angola was 420 billion lire (of which 265 billion was in grants and 155 billion in soft loans). This figure does not include emergency or food aid, projects funded by non-governmental organizations, training activities in Italy, fellowships or multilateral financial contributions, which are financed by other channels.

44. The dramatic evolution of the political situation after the elections has caused the interruption of most field activities and has led to a reconversion of the cooperation programme, giving priority to emergency and relief activities.

45. A brief summary of Italian cooperation with Angola is as follows:

Total bilateral disbursements for the period 1981-1992: 282.2 billion Italian lire, of which

166.8 billion in grants
115.4 billion in soft loans

Summary for the period 1987-1992

(In million lire)

	Soft loans		Grants		
Year	Allocated/Disbursed		Allocated/Disbursed		Total disbursed
1987	0	16 604	19 580	16 657	33 261
1988	14 892	1 420	31 550	25 800	27 220
1989	0	1 145	12 198	14 838	15 983
1990	0	13 177	48 475	13 875	27 052
1991	66 251	996	35 319	35 360	36 356
1992	0	14 185	13 594	40 781	54 966

Non-programme aid

	1989	1990	1991	1992
Ordinary food aid a/	17.0	7.0	7.0	10.0
Emergency aid a/	5.3	1.14	4.3	18.0
Fellowships b/	60	7	58	33

a/ In billions of Italian lire.

b/ Number of fellowships granted, including university and post-graduate fellowships, professional training workshops and ad hoc courses in Italy.

Norway

46. Norway has so far this year contributed 7.9 million Norwegian kroner (approximately US$ 1.1 million) in official humanitarian assistance to Angola. The contribution has been allocated through various non-governmental organizations to projects directed at internally displaced persons and to a hospital in Luanda.

Portugal

47. The Government of Portugal has decided to contribute the amount of US$ 150,000, through the UNDP Portuguese Trust Fund, for the proposed enhancement of the staff and resources of the United Nations emergency coordination unit in Angola.

Spain

48. Spain has made provision to contribute 400 million pesetas to Angola in 1993 as non-reimbursable aid. This aid is being provided in the following areas of cooperation for development:

(a) Food aid, 100 million pesetas;

(b) Emergency aid (clothing, medicines etc.), 5 million pesetas;

(c) Contributions to non-governmental organizations for development, 129 million pesetas;

(d) Projects, 115 million pesetas, distributed as follows: agriculture, 50 per cent, training, 22 per cent, transportation, 14 per cent and education, 14 per cent.

49. Aid to the Consulting Fund totalled 38 million pesetas and was distributed as follows: transportation, 57 per cent, tourism, 28 per cent, health, 10 per cent, agriculture, 2.5 per cent and communications, 2.5 per cent.

50. Human resources aid totalled 3 million pesetas and 144 scholarship months were awarded at a total value of 10 million pesetas.

Sweden

51. Sweden has, within the country programmes of the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), a country frame for contributions to Angola, which currently amounts to 210 million Swedish kronor. Long-term aid has been directed mainly towards fisheries, health and telecommunications. Owing to the civil conflict, the efforts within the country frame have been adapted to the disaster situation. During 1992, Sweden allocated SKr 15 million for the elections, SKr 18 million for the demobilization of soldiers and SKr 40 million for the Special Relief Programme for Angola. During 1993, an estimated SKr 35 million is to be set aside for the Special Relief Programme.

B. Organizations of the United Nations system

United Nations Children's Fund

52. About 50 per cent of the 3 million Angolans affected by the emergency are children. In addition to civil conflict, drought and displacement, problems include a large number of mines of all kinds, huge quantities of unexploded ordnance and bridges destroyed, making it difficult to provide humanitarian assistance.

53. Despite the loss of access to project sites, the insecurity and the consequent loss of contact with traditional Government counterparts and NGO partners, UNICEF has tried to maintain a full staff complement throughout the crisis, with the exception of the month of November 1992, when all but three essential international staff were evacuated.

54. UNICEF is accelerating efforts to help put back into gear the country's basic social services in areas of reasonable security. It is providing relief assistance to an estimated 2 million needy Angolans and assisting the most affected families with life-saving interventions. Depending on the evolution of the military situation, UNICEF plans to extend its programme coverage to other locations, including Huambo and Kuito/Bie.

55. Available data estimate that at least 175,000 children under 5 years of age are moderately malnourished and that as many as 110,000 may be suffering from acute malnutrition. UNICEF, in close collaboration with non-governmental organizations and complementing WFP dry rations, has initiated supplementary and therapeutic feeding for displaced children and women, while at the same time promoting the use of local staples. UNICEF also provides cooking and kitchen utensils and nutrition training of personnel involved in the monitoring of the nutritional status of the child population in the displaced persons' camps.

56. UNICEF emphasis on water supply in the areas of greatest need has continued with the provision of three new boreholes for approximately 1,500 displaced persons. Another aspect of UNICEF intervention is the focus on the training of teachers and other social workers directly involved with support services and rehabilitation of war traumatized children. Twenty-five teachers have been provided with refresher training in the identification and management of traumatized children.

United Nations Population Fund

57. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continues to implement a programme for the period 1991-1995 valued at $8.5 million. The Fund's resource situation has not permitted delivery of the entire amount expected. The largest project is in the field of maternal/child health and family planning. The project emphasis is on rehabilitating and equipping health units and training of staff.

United Nations Environment Programme

58. The Regional Office for Africa provided technical assistance and advisory services to Angola during the reporting period. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also provided support to the Southern African Subregional Environment Group, which is a grouping of the Directors of the Environment of the 10 countries of the Southern African Development Council (SADC).

59. Angola participates in the implementation of the UNEP regional seas programme for western and coastal Africa. UNEP, in cooperation with UNDP and the Government of Portugal, has been carrying out a variety of activities aimed at supporting the environmental management efforts of the Lusophone countries of Africa. Within the framework of this initiative, actions have been initiated for the preparation, in due course, of a national environmental action plan for Angola in close cooperation with the Government, UNDP and the World Bank. UNEP supported the participation of Angola in the UNDP workshop on the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa, held in Abuja in January 1993. The recommendations of the workshop will be implemented in Angola with the assistance of UNEP.

World Food Programme

60. Angola received approximately 111,000 tons of food aid in 1992, of which some 72,000 tons, or 65 per cent, was channelled through WFP to almost 1 million recipients. The remaining 35 per cent was provided bilaterally or through non-governmental organizations. For the first 10 months of the year, the focus of WFP assistance was infrastructure-related food-for-work projects, vulnerable groups reached through orphanages and day-care centres, demobilized troops and their families, returnees and displaced persons. After the resumption of the civil war in late October, however, WFP concentrated its efforts on food deliveries to the civilian war-affected wherever they could be accessed.

61. In the first half of 1993, distribution has been severely restricted in various ways by the fighting. Land mines, destroyed bridges and military activity have limited road transportation, and airlift operations have had to be reduced because of the fighting and the threat of missile attacks. Deliveries during this period have varied widely, from 900 to 4,800 tons per month, as air and road corridors have been opened and closed. The majority of this food has been airlifted.

62. All of the assistance provided by WFP is approved by the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Government of Angola. The Programme's implementing partners, however, vary from location to location. They include UNHCR and CARITAS in the north, where there are the largest concentrations of returnees and displaced persons; the Lutheran World Federation and the Ministry of Social Affairs in the east; CARITAS, CARE and Catholic Relief Services in the central region of the country; and the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Huila Provincial Emergency Committee and several non-governmental organizations in the south.

63. An operational plan presented to the parties to the conflict by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General envisions food and non-food relief distribution by road and air, before the end of 1993, at a rate of almost 20,000 tons per month. WFP logistics plans and the United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal are based on this projection.

Economic Commission for Africa

64. The Commission has been officially contacted by Angola for assistance in the elaboration of a plan for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Angola. The Commission intends to seek the cooperation of UNDP and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat for the funding of this challenging undertaking.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

65. Political developments during the period under review added to the difficulties associated with the deteriorating economic and social conditions in Angola. Commodity shortages and spiralling prices escalated the cost of delivery of assistance to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons. Consequent budgetary adjustments in projects benefiting returnees contributed to a growing perception that the presence of large numbers of internally displaced persons and returnees, the majority of whom are spontaneously settled in rural areas, impose additional burdens on meagre local infrastructure and services.

66. Nevertheless, in keeping with its policy of promoting voluntary repatriation as the preferred durable solution, and in response to the Government's request for assistance to Angolan refugees who have repatriated spontaneously, UNHCR set up an emergency assistance programme in December 1991. At the same time, it undertook preparatory activities for the organized repatriation of 300,000 Angolan refugees, mainly from Zaire and Zambia.

67. To carry out this operation, in June 1992 UNHCR launched an appeal for US$ 55.3 million. Within the framework of preparatory activities, UNHCR opened reception/transit centres in the provinces of Zaire, Uige and Moxico which have operated to assist spontaneous returnees. From January 1992 to February 1993, 3,500 tons of food and 850 tons of non-food items were distributed to returnees. However, the resurgence of fighting compelled UNHCR to modify substantially its initial plans and resulted in the suspension of preparatory activities in Zaire and Zambia for the repatriation operation. In 1992, UNHCR spent US$ 13,200,000 on assistance to Angola.

68. In view of the continuing hostilities in Angola and the increased demand for assistance, the UNHCR assistance programme was expanded in March 1993 to include internally displaced persons and other affected national populations in returnee areas. For this purpose, an amount of US$ 6 million was approved for emergency activities for the period April to December 1993 in favour of 100,000 Angolan refugees who had spontaneously returned, internally displaced persons and affected national populations in the provinces of Zaire, Uige, Bengo and Moxico.

69. Once peace is restored throughout the country, UNHCR will resume its organized voluntary repatriation and returnee programme, as initially envisaged.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

70. Crop conditions and the food supply situation in Angola are continuously monitored by the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) and the FAO-supported regional early warning project in Harare. In March 1993, FAO and WFP mounted a joint crop and food supply assessment mission, which estimated both total and emergency food aid requirements for Angola for 1993/94. This formed the basis of the food needs component of the United Nations consolidated appeal for Angola of June 1993. FAO has also proposed a project for institutional support for the establishment of a governmental food security unit in the context of a comprehensive food security strategy.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

71. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in association with the Government of Portugal, prepared an emergency programme in education as a major contribution to the social and economic rehabilitation of Angola. The emergency programme is estimated at US$ 17 million, and nearly US$ 2.5 million has already been mobilized to finance specific projects. An education sector review is about to be completed in collaboration with UNICEF and the Government of Angola. In addition, the Government of Italy has approved the financing of a project aimed at providing educational opportunities to children with special education needs and street children.

World Health Organization

72. WHO has continuing emergency response and preparedness programmes under the Drought Emergency in Southern Africa (DESA) appeal for Angola, supported by its subregional office in Harare. Basic drugs and organized training courses for disaster management have been provided. Priority has been given to the control of epidemics and the strengthening of the health sector.

73. WHO is expanding its emergency activities by participating in the United Nations consolidated appeal, launched under the auspices of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in June 1993. The objectives of the WHO programme include control of epidemics, provision of drugs and medical supplies and monitoring and coordinating health activities.

World Bank

74. The World Bank's vocation is to support long-term development activities in member countries. It is not equipped to provide direct humanitarian emergency relief. Nevertheless, the Bank is sensitive to the magnitude of the crisis in Angola and is exploring ways to provide an appropriate response within the framework of ongoing projects. During forthcoming missions to Angola, the Bank will explore the possibilities of contributing to the relief efforts through ongoing operations financed by the Bank. In particular, certain poverty-alleviation activities (labour-intensive works, and rural health-care improvements) of the recently approved Transport Rehabilitation and Health Projects are expected to be carried out in affected areas.

International Monetary Fund

75. Discussions are under way between Fund staff and the Angolan authorities on an economic and financial adjustment programme that could merit financial support from the Fund. In addition, the Fund is planning to implement shortly the second phase of a Fund/UNDP technical assistance programme aimed at upgrading the institutional capacity of the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance.

World Meteorological Organization

76. Since 1988, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been implementing the national component of the Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA)/SADC/WMO meteorology project under which experts have been provided in the field of meteorological training and in the maintenance of electronic and telecommunications equipment. Fellowships have also been provided in the areas of instrument maintenance, telecommunication and data processing. In addition, meteorological equipment has been installed at the various sites. An allocation of approximately US$ 1,173 million has been provided for this purpose between 1988 and 1993.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

77. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is sponsoring a project to rehabilitate the smallholder farming sector by providing the basis for future agricultural development through initiating activities in extension and applied research and the organization and training of farmers' associations to enable them to take over input supply and marketing. Basic inputs (hand tools, equipment etc.) are being provided to supplement this effort. The Government is also being assisted in implementing its economic and financial reform policies, particularly with respect to the development of the smallholder sector.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

78. When the previous report of the Secretary-General on international assistance to Angola (A/47/531) was issued in October 1992, the international community had high hopes that the economic and social renewal of Angola, a country ravaged by 16 years of civil strife, could finally begin in earnest. The tragic events that began to unfold later in that month not only ruined those hopes but brought even worse destruction and disarray than anything the country had experienced before the peace agreement of 1991.

79. The renewed conflict has taken a terrible toll on the people of Angola, as exemplified most graphically by the deplorable conditions in Kuito/Bie and other cities subjected to months of siege. Even in regions not directly affected by fighting, the impact of the war is felt in terms of economic breakdown, deterioration of social services, marginal living standards and influxes of injured and war-displaced people with little hope of receiving adequate care.

80. The fighting has also constrained the ability of the United Nations and its partners in relief to bring aid to the suffering populations. To the great frustration of relief agencies present in Angola, several locations known to have a desperate need of emergency assistance remained out of reach for protracted periods because of intense fighting or other impediments to access. The deaths and injuries sustained by relief workers during the past year demonstrated once again the extreme risk and difficulty of humanitarian work in zones of active conflict.

81. The recent lull in fighting, combined with the parties' consent to an emergency relief plan covering regions of critical need, offers some hope for the expansion of relief operations. Nevertheless, a comprehensive and lasting peace remains indispensable for the adequate provision of humanitarian assistance to Angola. Based on the guidelines established by the Security Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General is engaged in intensive efforts to obtain a political settlement that would ensure such a peace and enable Angola to emerge from the catastrophe of the past year.